their admission to these colleges. The inter-se merit of the students for admission to an undergraduate course is determined on the basis of the marks obtained by them in best four subjects, including one language, and there is equal consideration for all languages, including Hindi, in this regard.

Notification by UGC about some foreign and Indian universities

603. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has issued any notification warning the Public about several Foreign and Indian Universities whose degrees/diplomas are not recognised for academic or employment purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some Management institutes operating in the country are openly advertising that their degrees/ diplomas, conferred by International Management Institute, Europe are globally renowned;

(d) if so, whether the aforesaid degrees/diplomas are officially recognised by Government; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to educate the public in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has issued a Press Release on 16.6.2003 about some fake universities functioning at various places in the country and advising the aspiring students not to pursue higher education courses with such self-styled universities as the degrees awarded by them are not recognized for academic or employment purposes.

(c) to (e) Though the Government does not have any specific information on the Management institutes awarding degrees of International Management Institute of Europe, with the economic and financial reforms set in motion by the Government, there has been

internationalization of higher education and a large number of foreign universities/educational institutions have started showing their presence in India. The degrees awarded by foreign universities are not automatically at par with the degrees awarded by the Indian universities. The work relating to recognition and equivalence of degrees awarded by the universities in India and abroad is dealt with by Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Probe against NGOs for misuse of funds

604. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Women and Child Development is probing the functioning of NGOs handling DWCD sponsored projects and programmes;

(b) if so, whether this probe is to assess the extent of nonperformance or fund misappropriation by the NGOs; and

(c) the names of NGOs which have been black-listed during the last year by the DWCD for misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Specific guidelines exist for monitoring and evaluation of various schemes being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development which includes, ensuring that the implementing agency is registered and recommendation is forwarded by a State Government body. In order to further improve the effectiveness of these guidelines, the Department has recently undertaken several initiatives which, *inter-alia,* include setting up of State Empowered Committees for recommendations of project proposals, detailed feed back on utilization of funds by grantees, appointment of external monitoring and evaluation agencies, streamlining of working and bringing in transparency through information technology and the computerization of data base on voluntry sector agencies and projects sanctioned. The objective of the initiative is to monitor the effective implementation of the scheme as well as proper utilization of funds.